

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 TRSE-00 /065 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3081

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SOFIA 1282

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BU, UR

SUBJECT: AFTERMATH OF ZHIVKOV VISIT TO USSR, SOVIET/BULGARIAN
COMMUNIQUE

REF: MOSCOW 8055

1. SUMMARY: BULGARIAN LEADERSHIP MET IN MASS JUNE 9 TO
APPROVE RESULTS OF ZHIVKOV VISIT TO USSR. COMMUNIQUE IS
FILLED WITH USUAL GENERAL POINTS REGARDING DEEPENING AND
BROADENING OF COOPERATION BUT ALSO CONTAINS SOME INTEREST-
ING SPECIFIC POINTS. WHOLE EXERCISE AGAIN HIGHLIGHTS
BULGARIA'S STATUS AS USSR'S CLOSEST FRIEND. END SUMMARY.

2. BULGARIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (BCP) CENTRAL COMMITTEE,
MEMBERS OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, STATE COUNCIL, COUNCIL OF
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MINISTERS, LEADERSHIP OF AGRARIAN UNION, FATHERLAND FRONT,
KOMYGMOL, COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS AND NATIONAL COMMITTEE
FOR BULGARIAN/SOVIET FRIENDSHIP ASSEMBLED IN UNIVERSIADA
HALL SOFIA JUNE 9 TO HEAR TODOR ZHIVKOV REPORT ON MAY 30 -
JUNE 4 PARTY-GOVERNMENTAL TRIP TO USSR AND TO APPROVE
RESULTS OF VISIT. POLITBURO MEMBER ALEKSANDUR LILOV PRESIDED
OVER SESSION, A CLEAR SIGN OF HIS PROMINENT POSITION POST-

VELCHEV (BUT PROVIDING INADEQUATE BASIS FOR JUDGMENT WHETHER HE OUTRANKS STANKO TODOROV, SINCE LATTER HAD BEEN PART OF DELEGATION AND HENCE COULD NOT HAVE PRESIDED). BORIS VELCHEV WAS PRESENT AND VISIBLE ON TELEVISION AMONG MEMBERS OF STAFF OF STATE COUNCIL, POSITION HE STILL RETAINS. ZHIVKOV SPOKE TO REPEATED APPLAUSE, HIS "HERO OF THE SOVIET UNION" GOLD STAR PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED. HE WAS FOLLOWED BY TWELVE OTHER SPEAKERS OF VARIOUS AGES, SEX, AND OCCUPATION FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY, EACH EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR ZHIVKOV, BCP, AND EVER-DEEPENING BULGARIAN/SOVIET COOPERATION AND FRIENDSHIP. MEETING ENDED WITH UNANIMOUS RESOLUTION COMMENDING VISIT AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR UNDERTAKINGS ARRIVED AT DURING VISIT AND EXPRESSED IN COMMUNIQUE.

3. ZHIVKOV'S REMARKS BASICALLY PARALLELED COMMUNIQUE (REFTEL, WHICH ALSO APPEARED IN BULGARIAN PRESS JUNE 6. WE HAVE ONLY A FEW POINTS SUPPLEMENTING MOSCOW'S COMMENTS:

4. SECTION OF COMMUNIQUE DEALING WITH PARTY BILATERAL RELATIONS PREDICTABLY PLEDGED EVER CLOSER COOPERATION AND COORDINATION. ALTHOUGH WE LACK THE RESOURCES TO CARRY OUT STATISTICAL SURVEY, EMBASSY HAS IMPRESSION THAT OF LATE THERE ARE MORE VISITS TAKING PLACE AT LOWER LEVELS OF THE TWO PARTIES. IN ADDITION, OVER PAST YEAR IT HAS BEEN CLEAR THAT TWO PARTIES NOT ONLY COORDINATE EXTREMELY CLOSELY IN ALL INTERPARTY MATTERS, BUT THAT BCP FAITHFULLY ACTS AS AGENT OF CP/USSR, MUSCLING OTHER EE PARTIES INTO LINE (E.G. MARCH SOFIA IDEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE) OR ATTACKING

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EUROCOMMUNISTS (DECEMBER "PROBLEMS OF PEACE AND SOCIALISM" ARTICLE) ON SIGNAL.

5. IN ECONOMIC AREA, COMMUNIQUE PLEDGES CLOSER AND MORE INSTITUTIONALIZED AND COORDINATED ECONOMIC PLANNING AND COOPERATION IN FIELDS OF AGRICULTURE, USE OF LABOR RESOURCES, AND TRADE. AS MOSCOW HAS POINTED OUT, JOINT PLANNING THROUGH 1990 IS UNPRECEDENTED ADVANCE IN COORDINATED COOPERATION AND IS AT LEAST AN EXAMPLE, IF NOT A PROTOTYPE, FOR OTHER EE AND/OR CEMA COUNTRIES IN THEIR ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION. TWO COUNTRIES ARE PLEDGED TO BEGIN IMPLEMENTATION IN THIS AREA BY EXPLORING PROSPECTS OF ESTABLISHING OFFICES OF RESPECTIVE PLANNING ORGANS IN THE OTHER'S CAPITAL.

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6. ONE POINT WORTH FURTHER EXPLORATION AS POSSIBLE PROBLEM AREA IS PLEDGE OF TWO COUNTRIES "TO DEVELOP MEASURES TO SECURE FULLER PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL LIFE OF TWO COUNTRIES OF SOVIET CITIZENS WORKING IN BULGARIA AND BULGARIAN CITIZENS WORKING IN USSR." AS PRESENT THERE EXISTS IN USSR A UNITED COMMITTEE OF THE BCP IN THE USSR, HEADED BY OFFICIAL (GEORGI IVANOV) WITH RANK EQUIVALENT TO THAT OF PARTY DISTRICT FIRST SECRETARY. ZHIVKOV ALSO HAS MADE POINT OF MEETING WITH BULGARIAN WORKERS DURING RECENT VISITS TO USSR, NOTABLY IN BYELORUSSIA IN OCTOBER 1976. NUMBER OF SOVIETS WORKING IN BULGARIA IS ESTIMATED AT 15,000, ALTHOUGH EMBASSY HAS LITTLE KNOWLEDGE OF THEM.

7. IN ADDITION TO FOREIGN POLICY POINTS MOSCOW HAS NOTED (REFTEL), WE WOULD UNDERSCORE VERY LUKEWARM POINT IN COMMUNIQUE ON BALKAN AND BLACK SEA COOPERATION, CONSISTENT
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WITH SOVIET POSITION THAT BILATERAL COOPERATION BETWEEN BULGARIA AND ITS NEIGHBORS IS DESIRABLE WHILE REGIONAL COOPERATION IS NOT.

8. DISCUSSION OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM IN COMMUNIQUE INCLUDED USUAL STRONG TRIBUTE TO PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM, AND ZHIVKOV IN HIS JUNE 9 SPEECH DECLARED THAT DRAWING TOGETHER OF BULGARIA AND THE USSR WAS "A CONCRETE EXPRESSION AND EMBODIMENT OF SOCIALIST INTERNATIONALISM."

9. COMMENT. ONE THING THAT DOES NOT APPEAR FROM STUDY OF THE WRITTEN RECORD IS THE STRONG EMPHASIS ON THE WORD "BULGARIA" IN ZHIVKOV'S SPEECH, AND THE EMPHASIS HE GAVE TO SUCH PHRASES AS "THE TWO COUNTRIES". SOME DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS HERE BELIEVE THIS KIND OF EMPHASIS IS TO BRING OUT THAT WHILE BULGARIA CONTINUES TO ADHERE TO THE IDEA OF "EVER-CLOSER INTEGRATION" WITH THE SOVIET UNION, NEITHER SIDE IS THINKING IN TERMS OF BULGARIA SURRENDERING ITS NATIONAL IDENTITY.

10. WARMTH AND FAMILIARITY OF VISIT TO USSR, WITH ACCOMPANYING VISIBLE HIGHEST HONORS, MUST HAVE BEEN COMFORTING AND REASSURING EXPERIENCE FOR ZHIVKOV IN WAKE OF OUSTER OF OLD COLLEAGUE VELCHEV. ONCE AGAIN IN HIS REPORT TO THE NATION ZHIVKOV STRESSED THE "RICH FRUITS" OF BULGARIA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE USSR AND NOT ONLY PLEDGED MORE OF THE SAME BUT IN THE COMMUNIQUE AND HIS SPEECH CHARTED LINES OF A COURSE OF EVEN CLOSER COOPERATION IN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SPHERES. IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW COOPERATION IN THOSE SPHERES COULD BE FURTHER IMPROVED. HERZ

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